**UNITED NATIONS** **A**

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Forty-sixth session
Agenda item 98

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Third Committee (A/46/721)]

46/125. Question of enforced or involuntary disappearances

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 33/173 of 20 December 1978 concerning disappeared persons, and its resolution 45/165 of 18 December 1990 on the question of enforced or involuntary disappearances,

Deeply concerned about the persistence of the practice of enforced disappearances in the world, and about the fact that, in certain cases, the families of disappeared persons have been the target of intimidation and ill-treatment,

Expressing its profound emotion at the anguish and sorrow of the families concerned, who are unsure of the fate of their relatives,

Concerned by the growing number of reports concerning harassment of witnesses of disappearances or relatives of disappeared persons,

Recalling that the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances has referred on several occasions in its reports to the importance of drafting a declaration to enable it to fulfil its task properly,

Convinced of the need to continue implementing the provisions of its resolution 33/173 and of the other United Nations resolutions on the question of enforced or involuntary disappearances, with a view to finding solutions for cases of disappearances and helping to eliminate such practices,

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Bearing in mind Commission on Human Rights resolution 1991/41 of 5 March 1991, 1/

1. Notes with satisfaction that the open-ended working group established by Commission on Human Rights resolution 1991/41 has completed its consideration of the draft declaration on the protection of all persons from enforced or involuntary disappearances, 2/ which will be transmitted to the Commission on Human Rights for adoption at its forty-eighth session;

2. Requests the Commission on Human Rights to give this question high priority at its forty-eighth session;

3. Appeals to Governments to take appropriate steps to prevent and suppress the practice of enforced disappearances and to take action at the national and regional levels and in cooperation with the United Nations to that end;

4. Expresses its appreciation to the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances for its humanitarian work and thanks those Governments that have cooperated with it;

5. Recalls with satisfaction the decision made by the Commission on Human Rights at its forty-sixth session to extend for two years the term of the mandate of the Working Group, as defined in Commission resolution 20 (XXXVI) of 29 February 1980, 3/ while maintaining the principle of annual reporting, and requests the Working Group to continue to fulfil its mandate in a rigorous and constructive fashion;

6. Appeals to the Governments concerned, particularly those which have not yet replied to the communications addressed to them by the Working Group, to cooperate fully with it so as to enable it, with respect for its working methods based on discretion, to perform its strictly humanitarian role, and in particular to reply more quickly to the requests for information addressed to them;

7. Encourages the Governments concerned to consider the wish of the Working Group, when such a wish is expressed, to visit their countries, thus enabling it to fulfil its mandate even more effectively;

8. Expresses its appreciation to those Governments that have cooperated with the Working Group and replied to its requests for information;

9. Extends its warm thanks to those Governments which have invited the Working Group, requests them to give all necessary attention to its recommendations and invites them to inform the Working Group of any follow-up measures taken;

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1/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1991, Supplement No. 2 (E/1991/22), chap. II, sect. A.

2/ E/CN.4/Sub.2/1990/32, annex.

3/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1980, Supplement No. 3 and corrigendum (E/1980/13 and Corr.1), chap. XXVI, sect. A.

10. Appeals to the Governments concerned to take steps to protect the families of disappeared persons against any intimidation or ill-treatment of which they may be the target;

11. Calls upon the Commission on Human Rights to continue to study this question as a matter of priority and to take any step it may deem necessary to the pursuit of the task of the Working Group when it considers the report to be submitted by the Working Group to the Commission at its forty-eighth session;

12. Renews its request to the Secretary-General to continue to provide the Working Group with all necessary facilities.

75th plenary meeting
17 December 1991